



LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 4, 2014
9:38 a.m.
550 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Attendance

Present: Gloria Aftanski (Chair), Baden Almonor, Ana Class-Rivera, Senovia Robles, and Jessica Tomkins

Staff & Guests: Jane Brady and Elizabeth Holt

Review of Minutes of January Meeting

The members had no corrections or additions to the minutes from the January meeting.

Update on the continuing saga of alternative high school tests

Jane Brady reported that Perth Amboy and New Brunswick testing sites will begin testing in March. The cost of the test is \$92 and the McGraw Hill test was the test chosen to be administered. All examiners had to take the test in order to administer the test and all have passed. It is unclear if the test will be on computer or paper and pencil initially but within 3 years the test will only be offered on the computer.

An RFQ for non-profit organizations will be sent out this week by the state for additional testing sites.

Information from other WIBs regarding their Literacy Goals

Jane Brady read some reports that were provided to her from Atlantic/Cape May, Camden, Monmouth & Ocean WIB's with regards to their literacy goals and the procedures put in place to achieve such goals. The overview is that they are not too specific for literacy at all. There are no guidelines for WIB's which is why all WIB's can do things differently from county to county.

Merger of Literacy Volunteer organizations

Jessica Tomkins stated that Literacy Volunteers of NJ no longer exists. Six state wide agencies merged together and the merger is complete becoming NJ Literacy. Things are going well so far.

Learning Links update for NB and PA

Jane Brady informed the committee that the Learning Link is still struggling. New Brunswick and Perth Amboy have served 113 but need to reach the 155 goal. Perth Amboy enrolled 3 people in February. Part of this low enrollment was due to the weather but enrollment in Perth Amboy is consistently low. This is not due to the instructors as both instructors receive rave reviews. The parking situation in Perth Amboy is an issue and the amount of time clients need to spend in the Learning Link deters them from enrolling since it takes time away from their job search.

A conversational ESL class was started at Middlesex County College with WIA funds. Three people attended this first session in this 2 year long pilot program. Two were referred from New Brunswick and the third from Perth Amboy. The individuals have to be WIA eligible & staff is looking into utilizing it within the youth program. There is a need for this within the youth population as well.

Consortium update: New Brunswick BOE

Jane Brady gave an update that the overall goal numbers have been met. Some funding was taken back but this did not affect the consortium to provide individuals with training.

Any action on implementing goals

The goals were recently approved. This is not necessary at this time.

Other

Jessica Tomkins gave the committee a flyer with some of the upcoming events for NJ ALL. Jane Brady announced her retirement. Her last day will be May 2, 2014.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40am. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 9:30am at 550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick.